

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1458

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ETRN, EEC, DA, US

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: DANISH GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

ON ECE RESOLUTION NO. 15 ON SHIPBORNE

BARGES/PROPOSED EC/SWISS INLAND WATER-

WAY TONNAGE CAPACITY REGULATIONS.

REF: (A) STATE 143984; (B) USMISSION EC BRUSSELS 05832

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1. AT REQUEST OF MARITIME AFFAIRS OFFICIAL (RAVNEBJERG) IN DANISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE EMBASSY ECONCOUNS AND COMATT MET WITH RAVNEBJERG TO DISCUSS DANISH VIEWS ON SUBJECT RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER EMBASSY APPROACH PER REF A.

2. RAVNEBJERG MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING DANISH POSITION OR LACK THEREOF ON THE ISSUES IN QUESTIONS:

A. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT IN FACT DEVELOPED A POSITION REGARDING THE BARGE ISSUE AS IT DID NOT CONSIDER ITS INTERESTS INVOLVED.

B. DENMARK HAS VIRTUALLY NO INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC WITHIN DENMARK ITSELF AND DANISH COMMERCIAL OWNERSHIP OF BARGES PLYING INLAND WATERWAYS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE IS EXTREMELY LIMITED.

C. DENMARK IS NOT A PARTY TO THE 1868 RHINE RIVER CONVENTION FROM WHICH THE BARGE QUESTION HAS EVOLVED, AND THEREFORE IS NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATING THE WORKING GROUP NOR IS DENMARK IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS IN THIS REGARD.

D. SHOULD THE DANISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDER ITS INTERESTS JEOPARDIZED AS THEY WOULD BE IF ACTUALLY THREATENED WITH REMOVAL OF RECIPROCAL EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF U.S. SPECIAL TONNAGE TAXES, THEY WOULD DEVELOP A POSITION ON THE BARGE ISSUE.

3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION QUESTION OF 400 TON WEIGHT THRESHOLD WAS INFORMALLY BROUGHT TO RAVNEBJERG'S ATTENTION. HE REITERATED WELL-KNOWN DANISH SHIPPING POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO ANY TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION AS LIKELY DANISH GOVERNMENT STANCE ON THIS ASPECT OF BARGE QUESTIONS.

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4. COMMENT: DANES HAVE NOT PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO BARGE ISSUE. GROWING AWARENESS THAT ISSUE COULD HAVE SPILL-OVER EFFECTS THAT WOULD AFFECT DANISH INTERESTS MAY INSPIRE CLOSER GOVERNMENT ATTENTION. DANES ARE UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, TO INTERVENE IN ANY WAY IN THE PRESENT DISCUSSION.
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